



community right-to-know law doubles. 1995 Region 6 archives about 450 sites of concern, removing liability barriers effective technological advances. Updating remedies at Superfund sites save potentially responsible parties and the

# HEALTHY *The Responsibility of All Nations* PLANET

Children today face hazards in the environment that were neither known nor suspected only a few decades ago.

In the last 50 years, more than 75,000 chemicals have been dispersed into the environment. Fewer than half of these chemicals have been tested for their potential toxicity to humans. Fewer still were assessed for their toxicity to children.

Children eat proportionately more food, drink more fluids, and breathe more air. Because their bodies are growing and developing, they are more vulnerable and susceptible to environmental risks.

Over the past 30 years, this nation has made great progress in protecting public health and the environment. We have the safest drinking water in the world. Toxic pollution from industry has declined. Our air is cleaner.

But the job is not done. Over 6 million children have asthma, which doubled from 1980 to 1995. Nearly 8,700 children will be diagnosed with cancer in 1998, the most common cause of disease-related mortality in children.

Armed with legislation from Congress, EPA led the way in protecting children's health from environmental threats. In 1996, the Food Quality Protection Act and revisions to the Safe Drinking Water Act are two successful examples. Both laws require us to evaluate chemicals and their toxicity to children. In addition, a Presidential task force guides our actions and directs all federal agencies to make protection of children's health and safety a high priority.

Young and old alike benefit from reductions in pollution. Protecting our future by putting our children first is an investment in the health of all Americans.

### ***Children's Health***

Through our children's health program, the Cherokee Nation is intervening to protect rural Native American children from polluted ground water used for drinking. Children living near polluted water sources are participating in educational activities to increase their awareness of water-quality hazards.

Communities concerned with pollution can show children an education video called "E-Hazards,

They're Out There" to increase awareness about ways to protect themselves from everyday environmental hazards. The educational booklet and video were produced by EPA's Central-South region.

In New Mexico, Albuquerque Healthy Environments and Living Places for Kids Project, funded by EPA, is designed to reduce risks to children at home, school, and in child care.

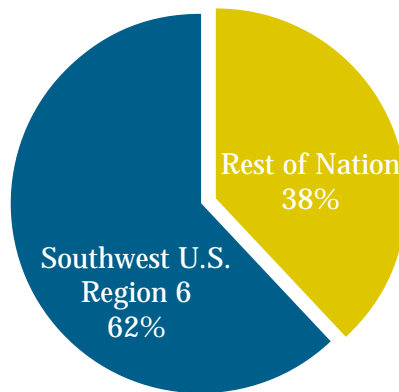
Through partnerships with Health and Human Services and the University of Texas Southwest Medical Center, the region is teaching health care providers ways to diagnose and treat children affected by exposure to environmental hazards.

Schools across the region are using indoor air quality "Tools for Schools" to improve air quality using practical, low-cost solutions.

The Arkansas Department of Health and EPA are helping identify asthmatic children from kindergarten through sixth grade for a study on reducing risks from biological agents that aggravate their symptoms. Children with asthma miss twice as many school days as other children.

Working with schools and caregivers, EPA developed an educational Pesticide Safety Bingo game to teach proper use and handling of pesticides. The

### Hazardous Waste Generated and Managed in Region 6



game is available in English and Spanish.

In Louisiana, the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice at Xavier University received funds to train community leaders about the hazards of lead paint. Over 50 local community leaders will

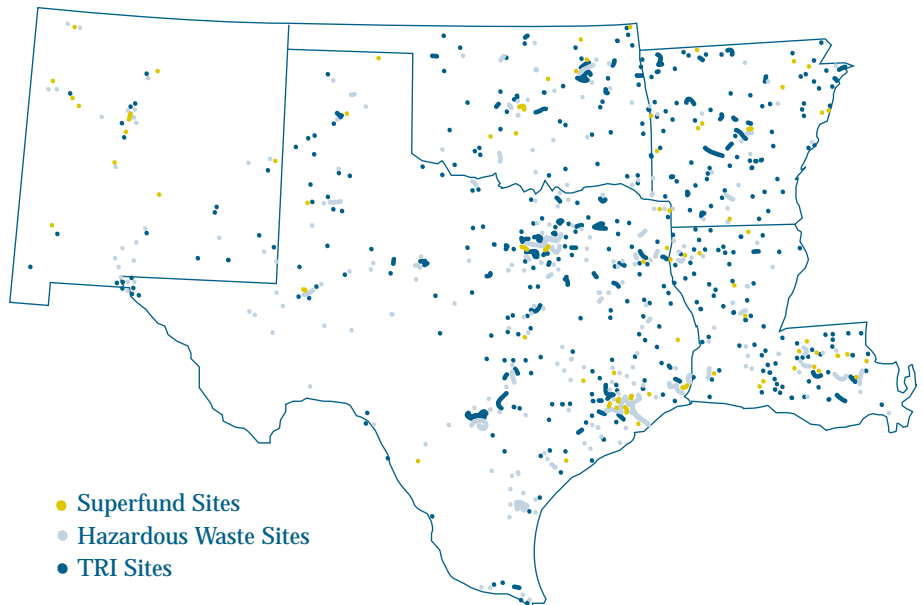
train other citizens on childhood lead poisoning prevention.

Websites designed for parents and caregivers on children's health issues and federal government programs are [www.epa.gov/region6/children](http://www.epa.gov/region6/children) and [www.epa.gov/kids](http://www.epa.gov/kids).

### Teaching Children

The National Environmental Education Act of 1990 called for the EPA to strengthen and expand environmental education as an integral part of its mission to protect the environment. Since the passage of the Act, more than 1,200 environmental education projects have been funded in states, colleges, schools and nonprofit organizations worth about \$13 million.

### Sources of Pollution



*Last year, Texas and Louisiana were first and second in the number of reported releases in the nation.*



Through its Partners-In-Education program, the region has been teaching students from schools about the environment, and helping them mentor others. This new program, established in 1997, has graduated 3,900 students through 1999.

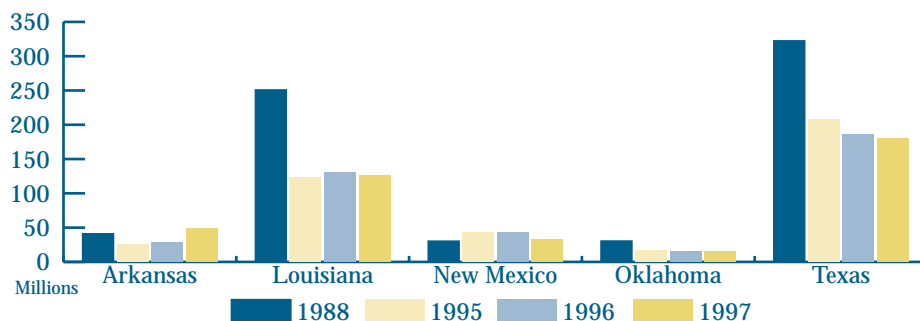
In 1999, the region helped establish an environmental curriculum and education center at the University of North Texas campus in Denton. Two EPA employees relocated for a year to help establish the program.

In Hot Springs, Arkansas, the Habitat Learning Project will train 625 at-risk students in math and environmental science. In Oklahoma, 4-H student leaders, teachers and county extension educators will teach stream hydrology to youth. Each year, EPA's Central-South region has provided about \$175,000 for 20 to 25 environmental education projects.

Since 1997, EPA's Central-South region has partnered with Langston University in Oklahoma to strengthen its environmental science program. Langston, an historically black university, and EPA are developing curriculum and outreach programs focusing on Native American communities.

The President's Environmental Youth Awards are presented annually to 10 national finalists from across the country. In

### Toxic Release Inventory Trends



1999, Kate Widland and Valerie Kaye, the region's winners were, two high school seniors from Albuquerque who founded an Environmental Youth Network, hosted an environmental conference and started an environmental business award.

#### Sharing Information

A late 1980s popular bumper sticker "Think Globally, Act Locally" urged us to recognize the impact of local activities on global environmental conditions.

Today, Americans want to understand environmental conditions in their neighborhoods. We recognize environmental progress is ultimately measured at the community level.

In the 2000s, people have access to more information than ever about chemicals released into their air and water. New labeling and disclosure programs help consumers safely use household products and protect against hazards. EPA's Internet Ozone Smog Map provides families with

community-specific, real-time information about ozone smog in their neighborhoods.

Internet use has risen dramatically. EPA's website is accessed more than 60 million times every month. EPA seeks ways to make more and better environmental information easily available to citizens, not only through the Internet, but also through partnerships, outreach and education.



*Administrator Browner presents President's Environmental Youth Award to Danny Herrera and Gloria Basden of Gadsden Middle School, Anthony, New Mexico.*